

# **THE JACOBS REPORT**

**GILDA Z. JACOBS  
MICHIGAN SENATE  
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader  
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release  
July 29, 2005**

**Contact: Matt Levin  
(517) 373-7888**

---

## **GRANHOLM PITCHES MICHIGAN TO FOREIGN PRESS**

In a speech to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm said that international life sciences, advanced automotive, and alternative energy companies looking to expand or invest in the United States should make Michigan their first choice.

"If you are a business anywhere in the world that wants to succeed in the auto, life sciences, or alternative energy industries, you must come to Michigan to succeed," said Granholm. "Bring your business to the automotive capital of the world. Bring your business to a state where you can work with an exceptional workforce alongside the globe's greatest research institutions. Bring your business to the epicenter of research and development. Bring your business to Michigan and succeed with us."

Granholm said that Michigan's highly-skilled workforce, its reputation as the North American capital of high-tech auto research and manufacturing, and its commitment to investing in both life sciences and high-tech industry give it an edge over other states. She used her appearance before the audience of international media to dispel the myth that Michigan is a high-cost state that focuses only on manufacturing.

Granholm reminded the audience that Michigan is home to 15 public universities and is the nation's third leading producer of engineering bachelor's degree graduates. Michigan has the highest percentage of engineers of any state, and more automotive research and design companies have located their international headquarters in Michigan than in any other in the United States. The state's focus on life sciences growth and development has spurred more than 100 companies in the last five years. She argued that her proposal to cut taxes for manufacturers, research and design companies, and small businesses will help make Michigan even more attractive to international businesses.

"We're reshaping Michigan's economy to be the 21st century center of growth in automotive manufacturing, the life sciences, and alternative energy development," said Granholm. "We have the highly-skilled workforce, highly-respected research universities, and the high quality of life that so many international companies are seeking. We're making our tax structure and our regulatory system more attractive to businesses, and we offer a highly-trained, highly-educated workforce that's ready to provide the highest-quality products right now."

In a global economy, Granholm said, companies can locate their business anywhere. Michigan's history, workforce, and vision make Michigan a smart choice for international investors.

"Globalization offers Michigan, more than any other state, the possibility and the probability of becoming North America's next great center of growth and opportunity," Granholm said. "Our history traces the rise of the global automotive industry. Our highly trained workforce and renowned research institutions give us, uniquely, the know-how to succeed. Our vision is one that embraces globalization and change."

Granholm also addressed new challenges and opportunities in the 21st century facing both Japan and Michigan as mature industrial economies. Granholm cited important links between their respective economies, noting that some 600 divisions, affiliates and subsidiaries of Japanese companies operate in Michigan. These companies employ about 100,000 Michigan citizens and contribute \$8 billion to the state's economy. Major Michigan companies, such as Ford, General Motors, Dow Chemical, and Stryker, are similarly seeking to grow their businesses in Japan.

Despite significant manufacturing job loss in both Japan and Michigan, the Governor said new opportunities are becoming apparent, especially in high-tech industries and applications that require intensive intellectual capital and innovation. Detailing her five-point economic plan, Granholm discussed Michigan's commitment to building an exceptional workforce by expanding access to higher education, making Michigan more competitive by restructuring business taxes, and diversifying Michigan's economy by investing \$2 billion in the industries of the future.

Granholm is the only governor to be invited to speak before the Foreign Correspondent's Club of Japan so far in 2005. She was invited to discuss, from a first-hand perspective, the current and future prospects of the North American automotive industry, a topic of high interest and attention in Japan.

The Governor is in Japan on a five-day investment mission to forge stronger alliances with the leadership of that country's automotive and new technology companies and to attract new, job-creating business developments to Michigan. She will meet with more than 150 Japanese company leaders through individual meetings, a reception, and seminars to promote Michigan's automotive and life sciences industries.

## **SENATE DEMS: PULL GRAND THEFT AUTO**

### **Website, Petition Drive Launched**

Michigan Senate Democrats are calling upon the manufacturer of Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas to immediately recall their video game and for Michigan retailers to pull all existing inventory off the shelf. Democrats say that is the only appropriate response to the discovery that the game includes hidden sex scenes that have caused the Entertainment Software Rating Board to recently change the game's rating from "Mature" to "Adult Only."

"Corporations are increasingly behaving like they don't have to play by the same rules as the rest of us," said Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit). "We have every right to expect any industry

targeting our youth to behave ethically and not market products that harm our families and communities.”

“The industry stepped over the line when they decided to market this to kids, hiding the adult content from parents,” said Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). “It’s like selling a child a *Harry Potter* book with a *Hustler* magazine tucked into the dust jacket.”

“Such unethical and irresponsible conduct from the company that produced the top selling video game of last year demonstrates the industry’s unwillingness and inability to effectively police itself,” said Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek). “Governor Granholm has called upon the Michigan House to act on the child protection legislation before the end of the summer recess.”

Governor Granholm listed the child protection bills as one of several legislative matters she would like to see resolved before the end of the summer recess. To date, House Republicans have not scheduled the bills for a hearing.

## **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD!**

To prevent the further spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Michigan has revised its quarantine prohibiting the movement of all non-coniferous (hardwood) firewood into the Upper Peninsula and surrounding states. Additionally, firewood cannot be removed from the 20-county quarantine area of southeast Michigan or from the 19 outlying quarantined areas in the lower peninsula.

Don't be responsible for the spread of this pest by moving firewood. Buy your firewood locally, burn it all on site or leave it behind. Don't take it with you!

For more information about the quarantined areas or this destructive pest, visit [www.michigan.gov/eab](http://www.michigan.gov/eab), or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

---

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####